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WORLD OUTPUT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS, FIRST QUARTER 1948

In the first quarter of 1948, production of manufactured dairy products generally dropped below the level of a year ago. The first quarter output of butter, cheese, and canned milk for countries recorded averaged about 10 percent below that of a year previous. For dried milk the drop was only about 5 percent. The sharpest decline in output of dairy products for the quarter occurred in the United States, but there was also a sizable drop in Canada, Denmark, France, and New Zealand.

Canada's total milk supply was below last year's because of fewer milk cows and a slightly lower output per cow. A less favorable feed situation and higher returns from competing enterprises were largely responsible for the downturn. In the United States, milk production on farms was somewhat below that of the first quarter of last year, while milk and cream consumption remained at about the same level. Cuba experienced an island-wide drought in February and March which handicapped the dairy industry. The shortage of milk was particularly severe in eastern Cuba, where most of the dairy plants are located. In France, the commercialized production of dairy products, with the exception of powdered milk, was smaller in this quarter than in the corresponding quarter of 1947 as a result of reduced feed supplies from the poor harvests of the previous year. Conditions in Switzerland showed a marked improvement, particularly after January. Sufficient amounts of feeds and concentrates combined with favorable weather resulted in a substantial increase in the milk yield. Flush milk production in the United Kingdom came slightly earlier this year than last and larger quantities of milk were available for dairy products even after fluid rations had been liberalized. In Argentina, the milk flow remained normal due to the ample rainfall and the excellent condition of the pastures. Production was up in the Union of South Africa over a year ago, due principally to the improvement in pasture and feed conditions. Increase in the price of industrial milk and decrease in the price of fluid milk also had some effect.

Butter production in the first quarter of the current year declined below the levels of the corresponding quarter of last year, although increases were registered in some of the more important butter-producing countries. In Australia, where production was at a high level in January and February, production for the entire quarter increased 18 percent. The greatest improvement in output occurred in the Union of South Africa, where production conditions were better than they have been for some time. In Eire, larger supplies were available to creameries and the output ran well ahead of the same period a year ago. The only other major producing country in which an increase took place was Argentina, production there being 5 percent over the corresponding quarter of 1947. In the United States, butter production showed the greatest decline of any dairy product, reflecting both a lower milk output in this period and a continuing demand for milk for fluid consumption. Canadian production in the first quarter of 1948 dropped to 92 percent of last year and was the lowest for the quarter since before the war. Declines in butter output also were noted in several continental countries, where conditions for production were unfavorable.

Cheese production in the first quarter of the current year showed the greatest decline of any dairy product. Nevertheless, several important cheese-producing countries reported an increase in production in this period. Switzerland led these with an output 47 percent above the corresponding quarter of 1947. Production also rose in the United Kingdom, Argentina, Australia and the Union of South Africa. The output of other major-producing countries fell behind in the January-March quarter. Of these, Canada showed the greatest decline, with output one-third below a year ago, the lowest for this quarter since 1941. Production in the United States in this period was 16 percent below the same period of 1947. Other countries reporting decreases in output were Denmark and France with a lower production also indicated in New Zealand.

Canned milk production in the quarter under review showed a sharp drop below the same quarter a year ago. Increases occurred in the United Kingdom, Argentina and Australia, but were offset by decreases in other countries, particularly in the heaviest producing country, the United States, where production in this quarter was down 12 percent. Output in Canada, Cuba and France also declined below the levels of a year ago.

Dried milk production generally showed the smallest decline of any dairy product. Marked improvement in output was noted in the United Kingdom, France, Argentina and Australia, but in the only other countries for which figures are available, the United States and Canada, production dropped sharply, being 83 percent and 82 percent, respectively, of 1947 production.

Current conditions abroad: Havana - The rainy season is now well advanced in Cuba and supplies of milk are increasing markedly.

Paris - Milk production in France in the second quarter is expected to be larger than in the same period of 1947. The winter was mild, the months of April and May were moist, and the heavy spring flow started in late April, about two weeks earlier than in 1947.

Bern - Milk production in Switzerland is now well ahead of last year.

London - As of May 16, milk production in the United Kingdom had risen to such a level that fluid-milk allocations to non-priority consumers were removed from control for a period of three weeks. This is the first unrestricted sale of fluid milk since rationing was introduced in 1941.

The Hague - Pastures in the Netherlands are in excellent condition. Current milk production is considerably above last year.

Copenhagen - Spring came early in Denmark. Pastures are green and there has been some allocation of oil-cake. Although milk cow numbers are lower, milk production in May surpassed that of the corresponding month of 1947 by 5 percent.

Buenos Aires - Milk production in Argentina held up well until mid-May when a sharp change in temperatures over the greater part of the country caused a marked decline.

Sydney - As a result of rains in many of the principal dairying districts of Australia, the seasonal outlook is very good. Production is still showing the usual seasonal decline at this time of year in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, but is now beginning to increase in South Australia and Western Australia. The good condition of cattle as they entered the winter season, together with adequate feed supplies, give promise of a favorable output of dairy products in the season just ahead.

Prepared by Floyd E. Davis and Regina M. Murray, based largely upon reports from U. S. Foreign Service officers.

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries, first quarter (calendar) 1948, with comparisons

Country and product	Average 1934-38	Total 1947	1947 1st quarter	1947 2nd quarter	1947 3rd quarter	1947 4th quarter	1948 1st quarter	First quarter 1948/47
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Butter a/								
Canada	248,119	290,841	30,744	95,236	112,493	52,368	28,410	92
United States	1,673,328	b/ 1,328,723	b/ 305,415	b/ 421,058	366,650	235,600	246,165	81
Belgium	46,179	c/ 54,937	c/ 10,318	c/ 18,007	c/ 16,114	c/ 10,498	-	-
Denmark	400,660	b/ 276,631	b/ 63,446	82,232	72,531	58,422	53,572	84
Eire	89,400	57,962	b/ 1,805	16,388	26,480	13,289	2,410	134
France	d/e/ 444,888	187,195	b/ 35,413	b/ 61,444	b/ 56,720	b/ 33,618	30,207	85
Germany	792,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	201,000	b/ 115,642	b/ 14,140	b/ 39,630	b/ 39,851	b/ 22,021	-	-
Norway	24,930	17,558	b/ 2,961	6,463	5,106	3,028	-	-
Sweden	151,309	209,340	47,884	60,138	59,398	41,920	-	-
Switzerland	62,170	32,628	6,777	8,887	9,326	7,638	5,933	88
United Kingdom	44,200	b/ 15,412	1,837	6,586	5,152	b/ 1,837	1,792	98
Argentina	65,742	b/ 112,700	34,167	25,957	19,119	b/ 33,457	35,912	105
Union of South Africa	27,725	37,642	11,351	8,268	b/ 6,634	11,389	17,054	150
Australia g/	f/ 437,032	340,157	87,990	62,422	65,999	123,746	104,263	118
New Zealand - total g	g/ 366,049	-	103,466	36,557	b/ 54,878	-	-	-
Export gradings	h/ 314,753	304,013	93,343	29,324	43,893	137,453	91,562	98
Cheese i/								
Canada	114,699	119,703	5,549	42,233	56,396	15,525	3,697	67
United States	643,234	b/ 1,206,501	b/ 250,912	b/ 411,849	339,235	204,505	210,385	84
Denmark	68,820	126,322	23,589	41,888	39,902	20,943	16,755	71
France	d/e/ 363,098	b/ 244,623	b/ 43,863	b/ 86,824	b/ 72,796	41,140	36,596	83
Italy j/	523,518	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands k/	266,549	b/ 140,797	b/ 10,148	b/q 54,385	b/ 49,200	b/ 27,064	-	-
Norway	39,067	24,259	b/ 3,617	b/ 10,421	7,520	2,701	-	-
Sweden	71,269	105,137	23,364	35,331	29,080	17,362	-	-
Switzerland	111,729	85,979	8,369	26,235	b/ 31,415	19,960	12,326	147
United Kingdom k/	109,000	36,916	4,525	9,677	19,802	2,912	5,690	126
Argentina	67,873	b/ 193,211	53,144	42,708	37,123	b/ 60,236	58,167	109
Union of South Africa	10,195	17,619	4,716	3,679	3,690	5,534	5,988	127
Australia	f/ 49,111	96,235	20,648	16,462	21,614	37,511	21,721	105
New Zealand-total	g/ 201,272	-	66,976	22,847	27,306	-	-	-
Export gradings	h/ 194,175	195,422	68,730	28,866	14,796	83,030	64,531	94

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries, first quarter (calendar) 1948, with comparisons
(Continued)

Country and product	Average 1934-38	Total 1947	1947 1st quarter	1947 2nd quarter	1947 3rd quarter	1947 4th quarter	1948 1st quarter	First quarter 1948/1947
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Canned milk								
Canada 1/	92,377	249,311	37,368	83,782	81,777	46,384	34,945	94
United States 1/	2,469,535	b/ 4,470,635	b/ 952,120	b/ 1,628,730	b/ 1,164,065	b/ 725,720	840,425	88
Cuba	e/ 32,564	b/ 31,362	b/ 4,395	b/ 7,033	b/ 11,963	b/ 7,971	4,338	99
Denmark	40,785	-	6,664	-	-	-	-	-
France	m/ 28,953	45,106	7,367	17,322	b/ 14,495	5,922	4,304	58
Netherlands	304,896	b/ 79,562	b/ 7,758	b/ 24,986	b/ 29,455	b/ 17,363	-	-
Switzerland	14,198	15,319	b/ 1,772	5,756	4,951	2,840	-	-
United Kingdom	378,560	b/ 131,174	13,888	71,680	30,284	b/ 15,322	24,909	179
Argentina	-	b/ 12,642	3,146	1,873	3,013	b/ 4,610	4,171	133
Australia	f/ 38,867	124,171	25,032	19,089	28,023	52,027	36,336	145
New Zealand	e/ 11,273	n/ -	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried milk o/								
Canada	23,488	69,911	9,531	23,976	24,542	11,862	7,773	
United States	e/ 203,555	838,250	199,330	304,450	215,345	119,125	166,440	82
Belgium	5,500	5,509	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	2,205	-	2,742	-	-	-	-	-
France	m/ 7,685	2,618	477	701	736	704	864	181
Netherlands	56,438	b/ 34,791	b/ 4	b/ 14,101	b/ 16,126	b/ 4,560	-	-
Switzerland	2,381	5,693	1,015	1,995	1,476	1,207	-	-
United Kingdom	33,600	b/ 55,372	3,136	22,310	b/ 16,845	b/ 13,081	22,669	723
Argentina	p/ -	b/ 17,293	4,883	3,202	3,357	b/ 5,851	5,858	120
Australia	f/ 16,971	q/r/ 63,465	q/ 14,077	q/ 11,369	q/ 13,646	q/ 24,373	q/ 17,048	121
New Zealand	s/ 17,429	n/ -	-	-	-	-	-	-

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations   Prepared from official statistics, United States Foreign Service reports, and other information.

a/ Creamery butter. b/ Revised. c/ These figures represent controlled production of butter. d/ Total production. e/ Less than a 5-year average. f/ Production year beginning July 1. g/ Production year beginning April 1. h/ Marketing year beginning August 1. i/ Factory cheese. j/ Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of sheep and goats. k/ Includes farm cheese. l/ Both bulk and case goods. m/ For 1937 only. n/ Canned and dried milk reported at 65,806,000 pounds for 1947. o/ Total dried-whole and dried-skim milk for human consumption. p/ Quantity small. q/ Includes infant's food, health beverages, etc. r/ Production of dried-whole and dried-skim milk was 44,256,000 lbs. in 1947. s/ For 1938 only.

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